

SANTA CLAUS
ABANDONED

All Christmas Exercises at Bellefontaine, O., Discarded

EVEN BY THE CHURCHES

Among Reasons Given Were Sentiment Against "Santa Claus Myth," the High Cost of Living and Theory That the Poor Need the Money.

Bellefontaine, O., Dec. 23.—This is probably the only city in the country without Christmas exercises in any of the churches or institutions. The ministers of the city announced to-day that they had decided to abandon the church Santa Claus, Christmas tree or exercises of any description. Sentiment against the Santa Claus myth, the high cost of living and the theory that the money should be expended among the poor were among the reasons given by the ministers and others for their action.

WILL FINISH CANAL
WITHIN NEXT YEAR

The Work Was Four-fifths Done at the Beginning of December—The Big Slide Has Been Conquered.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 23.—The engineers announce on beginning December four-fifths of the excavation required to complete the Panama canal had been done. There remained only about 30,000,000 cubic yards of material to be removed. That task is expected to be completed within the next year. The vast slide into the famous Culabra cut, which threatened infinite trouble, has been conquered by the use of dynamite.

PROMOTERS SENTENCED.

Four in Burr Bros., Inc., of New York Sent to Blackwell's Island.

New York, Dec. 23.—As punishment for having carried on a swindle in stocks by mail, which the government alleged lasted two years and is reputed to have netted millions in profit, four promoters of the firm of Burr Brothers, Incorporated, were each sentenced yesterday to a year's imprisonment. They began occupying cells on Blackwell's island last night.

The prisoners are Shelton C. Burr, president of the corporation, his brother, Eugene H., who was secretary-treasurer, Charles H. Tobey, vice president, and Edwin W. Preston, who was field manager of the business. The quartet unexpectedly offered pleas of guilty before Judge Holt in the criminal branch of the United States circuit court late yesterday. The indictment upon which the men had been called to trial specifically charged fraud involving \$60,000 in the sale of the stock of the People's Association Oil company, but the government alleged that this swindle was but one of a series of similar offenses estimated to have involved nearly \$500,000, and \$15,000,000 in profits for the promoters.

Counsel for the defendants said that rather than incur the expense of summoning witnesses from distant points to appear in the various trials, it had been decided to enter a plea of guilty to the specific indictment, from which the government opened the case. The maximum sentence possible on this indictment was 18 months, and counsel argued for clemency. He urged that the promoters had reason to believe that the stocks which they were peddling would prove profitable to investors, but they now realized that the representations which they had made concerning the enterprises were too strong.

United States District Attorney Wise said that if the case were an isolated one the plea for clemency might be granted, but as the frauds were widespread and were kept up for two years, there was no reason for clemency.

Judge Holt pronounced sentence as a year each. By a slip of the tongue which made even the prisoners laugh, he gave them a choice of terms in the Atlanta "cemetery" or in the New York penitentiary or Blackwell's island. The men preferred the island and were taken there last night.

A little over a year ago the men were occupying expensive offices in a Broadway skyscraper. On the afternoon of Nov. 20, 1910, they were descended upon by federal agents during a general roundup of mail stock swindlers, ordered by Postmaster-General Hitchcock. Their business had been mainly the sale of stocks and bonds and oil and gold mining enterprises. Among their promotions were the Nevada Goldfield Mining, Milling and Smelting company; British-American Copper Mines and Smelting company; Holcomb Automatic Engine company; Toledo, Wabash and St. Louis railroad; Arizona Copper and Gold Mines company; Long Beach, Mexico and Arizona Mining company, and about twenty other corporations.

DEWEY WAS BABY'S GUEST.

Famous Vermonter Attended Infant McLean's Birthday Party.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 23.—Vinson Walsh McLean, the \$100,000,000 baby grandson of John R. McLean and the late mining magnate, Thomas F. Walsh, and sole heir to their combined fortunes, last night was host at his third Christmas celebration. Baby McLean's guests included the czar of Russia in the person of Ambassador George Bakmeteff, grand uncle by marriage to the host, Admiral George Dewey, another grand-uncle, the Danish ambassador, Count Moltke, Senator Crane and some 25 juvenile millionaires-elect, who move in Baby McLean's set.

The festivities included a Christmas tree, a dinner of apple sauce and lady fingers and a special Christmas vaudeville performance.

TWO BIG FACTORIES
WRECKED BY FIRE

Loss in New York Last Night Was Half a Million and 5,000 Men Were Temporarily Thrown Out of Employment.

New York, Dec. 23.—Fire, which was barely controlled at midnight last night, wrecked two big factory buildings in the Williamsburg district of Brooklyn, causing a loss estimated at more than \$500,000 and throwing nearly 5,000 men temporarily out of employment. The heaviest sufferers were the F. E. & M. Vernon company, blankbook manufacturers and bookbinders, whose six-story buildings at North 10th, 11th and Berry streets were laid in ruins, wiping out as well the factory of the Hartford Brass and Copper company, which occupied the sixth floor.

The fire, which started in the engine room of the Vernon building, spread rapidly to the eight-story building of the Electro Manufacturing company, manufacturers of electric insulation, next door, and almost completely destroyed that structure. Slight damage was done to the adjoining plant of the Hecla Iron works.

Low water pressure added to the difficulties of the Brooklyn firemen in fighting the flames and a dozen fire companies were sent across the Williamsburg bridge from Manhattan. The roof and the side walls of the Vernon building and a side wall of the Electro structure collapsed and three firemen were hurt and had to be removed to a hospital.

The fire was the most spectacular witnessed in this section in years and an immense crowd congregated to watch its progress. Seventy-five families in nearby tenements were driven out by the flames and the rear portion of a row of four other dwellings near the burning factories were scorched. No fatalities or serious casualties were reported, however. The entire neighborhood was well flooded by the big volume of water poured upon the flames.

TWO PEOPLE BURNED.

In Different Fires in New York Early Last Evening.

New York, Dec. 23.—Two fatal fires occurred in the city early last night. One burst out in a spectacular manner in the seven-story terminal warehouse occupied by Gimbel Brothers at Thirtieth avenue and 28th street, and drove a score of employees to the roof, whence they came down by fire-escapes. Later a charred body was found near the freight elevator, and was identified as that of "Gus" Roth, a varnisher.

The fire required all the apparatus for two or three miles around, including three fire boats. It was confined, however, to a loss of \$50,000.

Mrs. Mary Lawrence, aged 60 years, was found burned almost beyond recognition in her apartment in a downtown building when a fire in the house was extinguished. She had evidently been using an inflammable fluid for killing insects and the police believe that this took fire in some way and caught on her clothes. A will executed by Peter Conway was found in the apartment, containing a bequest of \$21,000 to Mrs. Lawrence.

SMASHED MANY WINDOWS

When Locomotive Raked Side of Boston & Maine Train.

Newburyport, Mass., Dec. 23.—Several persons were slightly cut by flying glass when a Portland bound express train on the Boston & Maine railroad was sideswiped by an unattached locomotive near Newburyport station yesterday afternoon. Every window on one side of 12 cars was practically demolished. None of the cars left the rails.

A locomotive was backing on to a spur track when the Portland train swept down the track. The locomotive of the passenger train passed by safely, but all the cars were dragged across the end of the detached locomotive.

When the train was brought to a stop the rear car was filled with the steam from the wrecked engine. Men and women in great excitement smashed the glass on the opposite side of the car and jumped through the windows to the ground. It was in this car that most of the passengers received their cuts.

TAFT IN SECRET CONFERENCE.

With George H. Earle, Jr., Defeated Republican Candidate in Philadelphia.

Washington, Dec. 23.—A mysterious conference was held at the White House last night between President Taft and George H. Earle, Jr., defeated Republican candidate for mayor of Philadelphia in the recent election. The president said the political situation in Pennsylvania was the subject of the conference. Mr. Earle, leaving the White House about midnight, caught a train for Philadelphia without discussing his visit, cite regions. About 7,000 men and boys o'clock.

SET FIRE TO HER OWN HOUSE?

Mrs. Lena Hutchins of Lynn Is Under Arrest.

Lynn, Mass., Dec. 23.—Charged with setting fire in her own home from which she herself had a narrow escape, Mrs. Lena Hutchins, 51, was arrested yesterday. The fire occurred at 2 o'clock in the morning on Dec. 6, and Mrs. Hutchins claims to have been awakened by the smoke. As she sought to escape from the house she was partially overcome and fainted on the stoop. The house was damaged to the extent of \$2,000. Mrs. Hutchins was planning to move on the following day.

MYSTERIOUS BIG FIRE.

Destroyed Colliery at West Shenandoah, Pa., Last Night.

Shenandoah, Pa., Dec. 23.—Fire of a mysterious origin last night destroyed the West Shenandoah colliery owned by the Philadelphia & Reading company. The loss is estimated at a million dollars. The colliery is said to have been the best equipped of any in the anthracite regions. About 7,000 men and boys are thrown out of employment.

GIRL MURDER
NOT SOLVED

Bridget Pritchard, in Dying Statement, Accused an "Italian"

SHE WAS SLAIN LAST NIGHT

The Circumstances of the Crime, Which Was Committed at Hyde Park, Mass., Are Most Mysterious—Victim Only 18 Years Old.

Hyde Park, Mass., Dec. 23.—Efforts of the police were renewed to-day in an endeavor to locate the slayer of Bridget Pritchard, an 18-year-old girl, who was murdered last night under mysterious circumstances. Although a general alarm was sent out by the police and a search was at once instituted, as yet there is no clue to the girl's assailant.

In her dying statement the girl said it was an Italian who attacked her. On that information the police visited the Italian sections of Boston and of Hyde Park, but without result.

Just before 7 o'clock last night, Mrs. Thomas Pritchard was seated near the front door of her house when she heard a sound of someone falling on the front steps. Rushing to the door, she saw her niece lying in a huddled mass on the stoop.

"I have been stabbed, auntie," gasped the girl.

As Mrs. Pritchard stooped to lift the girl's head, George Neal, who lives across the street, ran over. Lifting the girl in his arms, he carried her into the house. Raising herself from the couch on which Neal had placed her, she cried out:

"I am dying."

A moment later she murmured faintly: "On the bridge—I was murdered by an Italian," and then fell back dead.

The police were hastily summoned and Medical Examiner Charles Sturtevant called to the house. After a cursory examination he pronounced death due to a wound in the back, under the left shoulder blade, two inches from the spine.

The girl was employed as a domestic by Mrs. B. C. Vose, who lives half a mile from the Pritchard home. The girl was on her way from her employer's to her uncle's when she was stabbed. Ordinarily she slept at Mrs. Vose's home, but last night she was going to her aunt's to make some arrangements for Christmas.

The police made a careful search of the bridge and under an arch light on the westerly end—furthest from the Pritchard home—found signs of a scuffle. It was impossible, however, to obtain any tangible evidence.

There are no houses near the westerly end of the bridge, and although the dwellings are very close at the easterly end, none of the people in the vicinity recall hearing any outcry at the time the murder was committed.

The murdered girl bore an exemplary character, and as far as is known, had no admirers. The police do not believe that robbery was the motive for the crime.

\$850,000 WAS STOLEN
BY CHINESE BRIGANDS

Imperial Convoy Attacked To-day, Being Climax to Series of Robberies and Murders in Kirin Province.

Harbin, Manchuria, Dec. 23.—A band of Chinese brigands to-day attacked an imperial convoy on its way to Kirin with a large amount of bullion. The robbers secured \$850,000.

The number of brigands in Kirin province has increased rapidly of late. Murders occur frequently along the roads, and the brigands attack at times settlements of considerable size, in which they loot stores and murder the inhabitants when resistance is shown.

AMBASSADOR BRYCE WARNED

To Show Vigilance in Protecting British Interest in Panama Canal.

London, Dec. 23.—The Hay-Pauncefote of 1902 between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and the United States was quoted to-day against President Taft's suggestion in his message to Congress on December 21 that preferential treatment should be accorded to American ships passing through the Panama canal. The editorial asks that British Ambassador Bryce show some vigilance "on behalf of our commercial interests."

MINERS ALL SAVED
FROM FLOODED MINE

There Were 200 of Them in Coal Pit at Wigan, England, To-day, When Water Rushed in on Them.

Wigan, England, Dec. 23.—The Cross Tetley coal pit became flooded to-day by a sudden rush of water, and two hundred miners were below in the workings at the time. It was at first feared there would be many fatalities, but later the miners were all brought safely to the surface.

Getting Off Easy.

Adam in the Garden of Eden had just named the animals.

"A pretty big job," he announced, "but just think of the fellow who will have to name all the diseases!"

Herewith he pities his posterity.—Puck.

PROBABLY 400 CASES
Of Smallpox in Vermont, as 320 Have Been Reported.

Burlington, Dec. 23.—A meeting of the health officers from the counties of Lamoille, Caledonia and Orleans, and other localities troubled with an epidemic of smallpox, was held yesterday at the Van Ness house and the situation was discussed in detail by Drs. Henry D. Holton, C. S. Caverly and F. T. Kidder, members of the state board of health, toward the end of stopping the epidemic, which probably at the present time includes 400 cases and which is infecting new towns all of the time in spite of rigid quarantine laws.

Dr. Holton was the first speaker and he took up the subject of the rules and regulations made for the protection of the community, in case of such an epidemic. He instructed the health officers in their duty of enforcing such laws and urged upon them the value of rigidity.

Dr. Kidder took up the matter of the technique of vaccination, and gave ample instruction in this department of the work. The fact that the cases of smallpox are very mild is thought to be the result of generations of vaccinated people. As soon as a person is exposed he should be vaccinated at once and, although there is no law here compelling vaccination, the value of it should be demonstrated.

The diagnosis of the case was the part of the discussion taken over by Dr. C. S. Caverly, and he carefully went into the different ways of discovering whether a patient has the disease. The difference between the symptoms and the symptoms of chicken pox and other diseases was carefully taken up. Following the talks informal discussions followed.

About 25 of the physicians were present, nearly all were from the northern part of the state. Over 320 cases have been reported in Vermont and that is interpreted as meaning that the total number at the present time probably reaches 400. Where a good quarantine is kept the disease does not increase in that locality, but new cases in other towns are continually being found. It is this that has kept the epidemic alive.

VERMONTERS NOT HURT.

In Report Received in Rutland From Scene of Train Wreck.

Rutland, Dec. 23.—According to a brief dispatch received yesterday, United States Marshal Horace W. Bailey and Deputies Bert A. Hyland of this city were in a train wreck yesterday morning on the Southern railway near King's Mountain, N. C. All the Pullmans on the train, including that in which the Vermonters were riding, were dented, but none of the party was hurt.

Marshal Bailey and associates left here a few days ago to take to the federal penitentiary at Atlanta, Ga., Ward Tolland, who was sentenced at the October term of federal court in this city to serve 18 months for smuggling Chinese into this country from Canada.

STILL A MYSTERY.

Where Benjamin B. Flint of Windsor Has Gone To.

Windsor, Dec. 23.—The mystery surrounding the disappearance of Benjamin B. Flint does not seem to be cleared. Posters have been printed and a broad circulation given of his description. Mr. Flint was 53 years of age, about five feet, ten inches in height and weighed about 180 pounds. He is of light complexion, and was last seen on Oct. 23 at the Walpole house in North Walpole. Since then there has been no word received from him. A reward of \$50 is now offered for information that will lead to his whereabouts or identification of his body if dead.

GETS TWO MONTHS OFF.

President Pardons Convicted New York Tobacco Importer.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 23.—In consideration of valuable information supplied the United States district attorney at New York, regarding customs frauds, President Taft commuted yesterday to expire at once, the two-year sentence of S. D. Stamatoopolis, a tobacco importer of New York City, convicted of conspiracy to underwrite importations. He has served more than seventeen months in the Atlanta penitentiary, and with allowances his sentence would have expired Feb. 21.

The Making of an Experienced Actor.

In the January American Magazine there is a remarkable interview with George Arliss, who, according to the opinion of most people, bids fair to become as important and successful an actor as the late Richard Mansfield. He is now 43 years of age. In his early days he had as varied and hard an existence as the most experienced actor of Mansfield. He played in many parts.

One week he was a policeman, one week a clerk, another time a rustic. He could make these characters young or old, as he wished. The young actor, full of ambition, made it his task to study each little part as carefully as he could. If he were to play a London clerk, for example, he watched actual clerks till he found one who seemed, in dress and manner, either to be a type of his class or to represent something that would be effective on the stage. Then Mr. Arliss would go home and design a hat or a collar or a wig or a suit of clothes, or all combined, that he might look, as well as talk and act, like this type from life he had been watching.

"Anything I saw on the streets which I thought effective dramatically I managed to get on to the stage before a fortnight," Mr. Arliss says. "And what was the result? Sometimes I fear it was, immediately, to upset the balance of the performance, but for me personally it was the finest kind of training. Not only did I skill my eye to observation, but I acquired a whole stock of effects which have remained in the background of my memory, and to this day when I am called on to play this part or that, almost unconsciously these memories come to my aid, and I know what I can achieve and how I can achieve it. The young man who begins on Broadway with a single part, plays it for two seasons, and then plays a second part for two seasons more, and so on till he is old, will never, save by a miracle, learn to be an actor. He will not learn the tools of his trade."

MUST BE FREE
OR HE WILL DIE

Is Physicians' Report on Charles W. Morse, Ex-Banker

SENT ON TO WASHINGTON

Conference of Atlanta Physicians and Surgeons at Fort McPherson Was Held Yesterday—Liberation Must Be Very Soon, They Say.

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 23.—Charles W. Morse, the New York banker, must regain his freedom within a very short time or he will die, according to the report which has been prepared and sent to Washington after the conference yesterday between local physicians and the military surgeons at Fort McPherson, where Morse was removed from the federal penitentiary here for treatment.

COMPROMISE POSSIBLE.

Hearing in Case of Shoe Machinery Co. Postponed.

Boston, Dec. 23.—For some reason not made public, the hearing on the demurrers to the indictment returned against five officers of the United Shoe Machinery company for alleged conspiracy in violating the Sherman anti-trust act will not take place on Jan. 3 in the United States circuit court, which was the date set some time ago by Judge Colt.

The postponement may be for a short time only, but in view of the information sent from Washington recently to the effect that the United Shoe Machinery Co. may be able to arrive at a satisfactory compromise with the government in the suit for dissolution, and that Attorney-General Wickersham was prepared to confer with Charles F. Choate at Washington on Jan. 10 regarding the prosecution of the case, the change of date in the criminal action is looked upon as having unusual significance.

ANTI-TAFT SENTIMENT.

Senator Penrose Thinks It Will Subside Before Convention.

Philadelphia, Dec. 23.—United States Senator Penrose predicted, in an interview here yesterday, that President Taft will be renominated without serious opposition. He said that so far as he has been able to ascertain "there is no great amount of sentiment in this state for the nomination of Senator LaFollette or any other Republican of the progressive school."

While in Washington Senator Penrose said he heard considerable anti-Taft sentiment expressed, but he expected this sentiment to subside before the national convention.

TOWN TREASURER ACQUITTED.

Was Charged With Embezzlement of the Town Funds.

Providence, R. I., Dec. 23.—After considering the case for nearly five hours, a jury in the superior court late yesterday afternoon acquitted former Town Treasurer John Ogden of North Providence of the charge of embezzlement of the town's funds. Ogden has been on trial for two weeks on three indictments alleging embezzlement of \$4,700. His defense was that he never knowingly converted any of the town's money to his own use and if there were any discrepancies they were due to mistake in bookkeeping.

DEAD ON THE FLOOR.

Portland Jeweler Was Asphyxiated by Illuminating Gas.

Portland, Me., Dec. 23.—Accidental asphyxiation by illuminating gas is believed to have caused the death of Bernard Silverman, aged 68 years, an old-time Portland jeweler, who was found dead last night on the floor of the bedroom in his house on Dear street. Silverman's family is visiting in Providence. He was not missed until he failed to attend the services at the Hebrew synagogue, at which he was a constant attendant. A widow and three children survive.

CHINA LESS HOPEFUL.

Thinks Conference Between Government and Revolutionists Will Be Failure.

Peking, Dec. 23.—In government circles here there seems little doubt that the conference at Shanghai between representatives of the imperial government and the revolutionist party will prove a failure. The belief prevails that the revolutionists are preparing to advance to the north by the way of Pukow, which is in their possession.

One Divorce Suit Dismissed.

Middlebury, Dec. 23.—The entire time of Addison county court yesterday was taken up with the following divorce cases: Fred Vincent vs. Hattie Vincent, formerly of East Middlebury; Victor Carpen vs. Angel Carpen of Vermont; Mabel Bowers vs. Edson H. Bowers of Bridport. The case of Effie M. Lawrence vs. Herbert C. Lawrence, heard December 14, was dismissed. The case standing for trial when the court convenes January 2 is that of H. C. Potter vs. I. N. Chase. This case at a previous trial resulted in a disagreement.

Up to Date.

Showman—Walk in, ladies and gentlemen, and see the Arctee giants, descendants of a long extinct race.—St. Louis Times.

"SANTA" CAME EARLY
To the Children of the Italian Baptist Mission Last Evening.

Christmas tree exercises for the little people of the Italian Baptist mission on Brook street were successfully carried out last evening at 8 o'clock under the direction of the pastor, Rev. G. B. Castellini and Mrs. Castellini. The front part of the church was prettily decorated in a manner becoming to Christmas and two large evergreen trees, located at either end of the play area, were generously laden with gifts in addition to the trimmings of popcorn and lighted candles. The children entered into the spirit of the occasion and a general romping preceded the program.

The exercises were carried out before a good-sized sprinkling of parents of the children and friends of the mission. The work of the children reflected considerable credit on the efforts of the pastor and his wife, who have had their training for the affair in charge. The complete program follows:

Song, entire school; song, girls of the school; solo and chorus, Lyle Young and school; Italian song, Linda Castellini; recitation, Miss Beatrice Beach; Italian song, Mrs. G. B. Castellini; solo and chorus, Lyle Young and school; two-part song, Linda Castellini, Margaret Matthews, Josephine Lucchini, Katherine Counts, Beatrice Beach, Elinor Livendale and Nellie Mazzoni; solo, Katherine Counts; quartette, Francis Young, Nellie Gordon, Peggy Gordon, Ruth McKnight; solo and chorus, Linda Castellini; solo and chorus, Indian club drill, George Murray; English songs, Mrs. Castellini; remarks by the pastor; song, entire school.

Following the conclusion of the program, the distribution of the presents took place. The pastor and some of the younger members of the congregation assisted in stripping the trees of their burdens. In some respects the Christmas tree this year was one of the most successful yet held at the mission. Eighty children were present in addition to the parents and friends who came to help in making the evening one of pleasure.

PLEASANT REUNION

Of Bonaccord Football Team and Their Friends Last Night.

The Bonaccord football team held its annual reunion in Miles' hall last evening in the shape of a dance which started at 8 o'clock and came to a close around midnight. Eighty couples were present for the occasion and among the number were many former football stars who in days past have struggled well to maintain the standing of this well-known athletic organization. Sim's orchestra furnished music for the dancers.

One small compartment of the hall was transformed into a place of refreshment and light lunches were served throughout the evening. This proved to be one of the most delightful features of the reunion and the buffet luncheon idea will doubtless become a permanent feature of the club's annual gatherings.

In charge of the affair was a committee consisting of the following members who, after lending every effort to make the evening enjoyable, were rewarded by assisting to carry out one of the most successful reunions ever undertaken by the Bonaccords. The members constituting the committee were as follows: Andrew Freeman, William Ritchie, William Brodie, Andrew Walker, George Mowatt, Robert Davidson, Frank Wilson, William Fairs, Alex. Thompson, and James Stewart.

CASE NOT PROSSED.

Because Respondent Was Sent to the State Insane Asylum.

In city court this morning Judge H. W. Scott not proessed the case against Patrick Dineen of Montpelier, who was arrested and brought into court some time ago on an intoxication charge. The case was continued by Judge Scott until to-day, pending a hearing in probate court. Before Judge F. J. Martin in probate court at Montpelier yesterday, Dineen was ordered sent to the state hospital at Waterbury for treatment.

The man was found near Jones Bros.' shed in this city in a semi-conscious condition and when brought to the police station by local officers, he said that he had used a mixture of drugs and whiskey to alleviate the pain caused by an injured leg. Prior to this, Dineen had been confined to the county jail in Montpelier until the probate court hearing. Judge Scott sent him back to his old quarters until Judge Martin should give his decision.

Dineen is said to be anxious that his appetite for drugs and intoxicating liquors be cured. Officials at the state hospital are given the power to release the man on parole as soon as his condition will warrant his freedom. He has a wife and children living in New Hampshire.

UNION ORGANIZER SPEAKS.

A. D. Pierce Gave Address in Montpelier City Hall.

General Organizer A. D. Pierce of the American Federation of Labor, gave an address last evening in the Montpelier city hall before an audience of about one hundred. He spoke emphatically in favor of labor unions, saying that the unjust and cruel industrial conditions made unions absolutely necessary. With fewer hours of labor, man is not so soon worn out and fewer hours also give employment to more men. He favored strikes only as a last resort. Child labor laws and the raising of the school age are products of union effort. Mr. Pierce took occasion to rap certain companies and manufacturers and gave advice as to the union label, corporations and the recall system.

Mayor S. S. Bullard presided over the meeting and a number of Montpelier citizens spoke, among them W. E. Colton, E. H. Devitt, W. A. Lord, Alderman McKenna and Frank H. Tracy. The Montpelier Military band orchestra furnished music.

Hanson Beat Poulls.

Burlington, Dec. 23.—Fritz Hanson of Claremont, N. H., defeated Jim Poulls of Manchester, N. H., in straight falls here last night. Hanson got the first fall in 30 minutes and the second in 20 minutes.

NO PAPER MONDAY.

There will be no issue of The Times on Monday, Christmas day.

NOT DESERTED
BY FIANCEE

Fleson Was Given Big Box of Flowers To-day

AND CHRISTMAS DELICACIES

Accused Man Showed Marked Improvement To-day, According to Statement by His Lawyer, William A. Morse, After Daily Visit.

Boston, Dec. 23.—"There has been a marked improvement in the condition of Rev. Mr. Richeson," said William A. Morse, counsel for the clergyman accused of the murder of Avis Linnell, after his daily visit at the jail to-day. Mr. Morse also stated that his client passed a good night and appeared cheerful. He also said that early next week he expected to go over the case with Richeson. Richeson received a large box of flowers and Christmas delicacies from Miss Violet Edmonds to-day.

WOMAN UNDER BONDS

To Be Present and Testify in the Richeson Case.

Boston, Dec. 23.—Following the holding of Charles S. Pierce, a Newton Theological institute student, in \$300 bonds Thursday, as a witness in the trial of the Rev. Clarence V. T. Richeson, charged with the murder of Avis Linnell, it became known yesterday that another witness had furnished bonds for appearance at the trial. The second witness, who was held in \$500, is Miss Lucille L. Zeigler, the roommate of Miss Linnell while at the Young Women's Christian association dormitory on Warren street, Boston.

FISHING FOR A ROCK.

Robert Turner Has Got the Six-ton Wagon Out of River at Montpelier.

Robert Turner, an employee of Jones Brothers' granite plant of this city, had a gang of workmen at Montpelier yesterday engaged in removing the heavy six-ton wagon, which went into the river with the ten-ton cut base of granite last Thursday. The job was a difficult one, the wagon and base being chained together, with both entirely bottom side up in the water. Mr. Turner was successful in getting the wagon out and onto the road without any damage. Damage to the wagon, when it went over in the accident, was slight.

The difficult part now comes in getting the large stone onto terra firma, it being submerged in the water and deeply imbedded in the mud and sand on the river bed, with all the fine cut edges exposed, not being boxed, and a soft bottom to work on. However, Mr. Turner expects to master the job and with the water drawn down Sunday, will have a better chance. The fault and cause of the accident seems to have been the condition of the road at that point, occasioned by the road coming down a hill and into the river road on a steep slope and far into the lower highway.

HOLIDAYS IN GRANITE SHEDS

There Is Likely to Be Less Time Lost This Year Than Last.

Many of the granite sheds in the city closed down this afternoon until Wednesday morning. Others ceased work last night and will not reopen until the Wednesday after New Year's, which means that their employees will be given ten days off. Others still shut down earlier in the week to remain closed until the coming Wednesday.

Probably because of the mild weather which has marked the season to date, many of the sheds will cut the annual Christmas suspension of business down to a minimum. Manufacturers say that such an opportunity to carry on business seldom comes and many appear anxious to take advantage of the favorable weather and make up for time which may be later sacrificed on account of zero conditions. Doubtless another reason partially accountable for the tendency to limit the time of closing is the fact that business seems to be brighter than last year, when a good majority of the sheds suspended work for ten days.